



ARIZONA*SERVES* TASK FORCE

Executive Tower, 1st Floor Conference Room
Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2011

Members Present

Sylvester Ajagbe
Jason Bachman
Clarence Carter
Susan Corsaro-Johnson
Terry Crist (Chair)
Judith Fritsch
Kathleen Heard
Scott Neuman
Mike Normand
Billy Thrall
Wayne Tormala
Mark Upton
Jane Wabnik
Steve Zabilski

Members Absent

Russ Dickey
Karl Gentles
Peg Harmon
Cathi Herrod
Gary Kinnaman
Diane Swanson
Nicola Winkel
Cynthia Zwick

Staff Present

Jamie Bennett
Chuck Fitzgerald
Cassandra Larsen

I. Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Terry M. Crist
Chairman

Chair Crist welcomed Task Force members and guests at 10:10 a.m. with a heart-felt Thank You for all of the time and effort invested in serving the most vulnerable in our State.

Cassandra Larsen, Governor's Policy Advisor for Human Services and the Director of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, introduced herself to attendees. Jamie Bennett, Assistant Policy Advisor to the Governor, introduced herself to attendees. Both Cassandra and Jamie provide oversight to Arizona*SERVES*; Cassandra spoke briefly about Arizona*SERVES* and its importance to the Governor and the individuals and families of Arizona.

Clarence Carter, Director of Arizona's Department of Economic Security, invited Task Force members to assist him as he develops recommendations for the Governor in the coming weeks regarding child welfare. Task Force members interested in assisting can contact the Director's office at (602) 542-5757.

Task Force member Mark Upton led the Task Force in prayer for Director Carter.

II. Review and Action – June 17, 2011 Task Force Meeting Minutes

The June 17, 2011 Task Force Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Notice is hereby given that the above referenced meeting is open to the public. Order of agenda items is subject to change. For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Staff at (602) 639-0031. This Task Force was established pursuant to Executive Order 2010-16, available at www.governor.state.az.us. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Staff at (602) 630-0031. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow sufficient time to make the arrangements for the accommodation.



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III. Task Force and Team Success

Chuck Fitzgerald
Staff

Cassandra Larsen spoke briefly regarding the Task Force's success over the past year; she then asked Chuck Fitzgerald to lead a discussion on the successes achieved since the seating of the Task Force on August 13, 2010. Highlights from his opening remarks included:

- Today is the 8th Task Force meeting; each Issue Team has met 14 times
- Website traffic averages 35 unique visitors daily; "Foster Care" pages are most visited
- Speaking engagements highlighting ArizonaSERVES attended by over 2,100 people
- Email-based impressions of ArizonaSERVES exceeded 125,000

Staff then introduced these successful community efforts:

No Child Waiting Coalition. Chair Steve Hubler and Task Force member Mark Upton spoke about this coalition's purpose of finding families for every child waiting for adoption in Arizona by 12/25/2015. Today, 28 Evangelical churches belong to the No Child Waiting coalition (www.nochildwaiting.org). The official launch of No Child Waiting will occur at an 11/17/2011 breakfast in the Phoenix area, and an 11/17/2011 lunch in the Tucson area. The "Wait No More" event, being brought to Arizona by the coalition, will take place on 2/11/2012 at Scottsdale Bible Church. More than 2,000 are expected to attend this child adoption mobilization event. Director Carter offered the Department of Economic Security's help to assist with expected high-volume of follow-up to be generated by this event. It was suggested that the Task Force have an "event display kit" for use at community events; staff will work on this item.

West Valley Human Services Alliance. Chair Betty Lynch provide a brief history of the Alliance since its beginnings in 2005. Annual efforts of the Alliance in recent years have been: Homelessness, Childhood Hunger and Redefining Poverty. This year's focus for the Alliance is Transportation for the Underserved. The Alliance will host and facilitate a summit in Goodyear on 2/10/2012 which highlights successful models for faith-based and community organizations to employ for serving their communities with much needed transportation. The Alliance is partnering with ArizonaSERVES, regional planning organizations and community partners to address the issue. Betty asked for the Task Force's help in getting the word out about the event. Betty's recommendation for the Task Force as it continues its work is to engage community groups that already convene in local communities. "Local conversations and local decisions tend to be more effective catalysts for good."

CPS Office Support. Task Force member Susan Corsaro-Johnson spoke about her success in connecting local churches with CPS office staff. Apache Junction, Somerton and Yuma CPS office staff are partnering with local congregations to improve the quality of supervised visitations by providing support for family meeting spaces, and by providing resources requested by the CPS office staff. Susan described ArizonaSERVES as the intersection point of faith community and government efforts in support of family reunification.

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Chair Crist asked for Billy Thrall to update attendees on Season of Service #2. The official launch will be on 10/14/2011 with guest speaker Ravi Zacharias; although community projects have already begun. HopeFest Tucson will be held on 10/22/2011 and HopeFest Phoenix is being planned for late March 2012. HopeFest is a one day "care event" for people in need.

IV. Arizona*SERVES* joins the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Service-Learning

There was much discussion regarding the November 4th (and 5th) Summit in Coolidge. Meeting guests Tammy Paz-Combs and Bob Shogren, both with the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, provided information regarding the Summit. The main purpose of the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Service-Learning is to honor the collaborative spirit of Arizona, and inspire individuals and organizations to build volunteer capacity state-wide. Staff updated attendees on the planned summit Agenda, to include video PSA developments. It was suggested that Task Force members personally connect with the Summit steering committee members; staff will ensure a roster is provided to Task Force members.

V. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak.

VI. Closing Statements

Chair Crist thanked Task Force member Jason Bachman for his service. Jason has accepted the position of Outreach Director for Convoy of Hope in Springfield, Missouri. Jason has been an Arizona*SERVES* leader since its inception, and has proven time after time his desire to serve those in need; his leadership the past two years with Convoy of Hope in Arizona is a testament to this desire. A certificate of appreciation from Governor Brewer was presented to Jason by Chair Crist.

Chair Crist encouraged Task Force members to continue fostering connections for Arizona*SERVES*.

The next Task Force meeting is on November 18, 2011

VII. Adjourn

A motion, a second, and a unanimous approval for adjournment were received at 11:50 a.m.